

Response Dated August 3, 2004

Responsive to Office Action of June 15, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (previously presented). A method for the open-loop and closed-loop control and documentation of a cleaning operation with a cleaning medium in a household dishwasher, which comprises:

adding at least one indicator to a quantity of the cleaning medium during a prewash step to create a mixture and measuring a concentration of the at least one indicator in the mixture;

setting parameters for at least one partial step in the cleaning operation by comparative measurements of a concentration of the at least one indicator in the mixture;

documenting at least the parameter settings; and

controlling the setting parameters for the at least one partial step of the cleaning operation based upon the documented parameter settings.

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2 (original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the mixture includes at least one of the group consisting of detergent and the at least one indicator.

3 (original). The method according to claim 1, which further comprises setting parameters for at least one of the group consisting of a partial step already running in the cleaning operation and at least one following partial step in the cleaning operation by comparative measurements of the concentration of the at least one indicator in the mixture.

4 (currently amended). The method according to claim 1, wherein the cleaning medium ~~[[is]]~~ includes a detergent in a form selected from at least one of the group consisting of:

a solid form;

a liquid form;

~~a gaseous form,~~ and

a mixture of ~~at least two of~~ a solid form~~[[,]]~~ and a liquid form, ~~and a gaseous form.~~

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5 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, which further comprises carrying out the measurements of at least one of the group consisting of:

the concentration of the at least one indicator in the mixture; and

a quantity of cleaning medium present in the mixture, during a progress of a partial step in the cleaning operation.

6 (original). The method according to claim 5, wherein the mixture includes at least one of the group consisting of detergent and the at least one indicator.

7 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, which further comprises:

after the at least one indicator has been added, measuring the concentration of the at least one indicator in the mixture;

applying the mixture including the cleaning medium to goods;

after the cleaning medium has been applied to the goods to be cleaned, performing at least one of the group consisting of:

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a further measurement of the concentration of the at least one indicator in the mixture; and

a measurement of the quantity of the mixture present;

determining a quantity of the at least one indicator removed from the mixture from a comparison of the measurements; and

based upon the determined quantity of the at least one indicator removed from the mixture, setting parameters for one of the group consisting of:

a partial step already running in the cleaning operation; and

at least one following partial step in the cleaning operation.

8 (original). The method according to claim 7, wherein the mixture includes at least one of the group consisting of detergent and the at least one indicator.

9 (original). The method according to claim 7, which further comprises performing at least one of the group consisting of:

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the further measurement of the concentration of the at least one indicator in the mixture; and

the measurement of the quantity of the mixture present,

during a mixture emptying operation.

10 (original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the parameters defined for the at least one partial step in the cleaning operation include at least one of the group consisting of:

a temperature of the cleaning medium;

a quantity of the cleaning medium;

at least one time of an addition of additives to the cleaning medium;

at least one quantity of the addition of additives to the cleaning medium;

a duration of an application of the cleaning medium to goods to be cleaned; and

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an intensity of the application of the cleaning medium to goods to be cleaned.

11 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, which further comprises carrying out the documentation step by documenting at least the parameter settings in a storage media belonging to a control device of the dishwasher for the cleaning operation.

12 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, which further comprises carrying out the controlling step by controlling the cleaning operation in one of the group consisting of an open-loop and a closed-loop.

13 (previously presented). A method for the control, regulation, and documentation of a cleaning operation with a cleaning medium in a household dishwasher, which comprises:

adding at least one indicator to a quantity of the cleaning medium during a prewash step to create a mixture and measuring a concentration of the at least one indicator in the mixture;

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setting parameters for at least one partial step in the cleaning operation by comparative measurements of a concentration of the at least one indicator in the mixture;

documenting at least the parameter settings; and

controlling the setting parameters for the at least one partial step of the cleaning operation based upon the documented parameter settings.

14 (previously presented). The method according to claim 13, wherein the mixture includes at least one of the group consisting of detergent and the at least one indicator.

15 (previously presented). The method according to claim 13, which further comprises setting parameters for at least one of the group consisting of a partial step already running in the cleaning operation and at least one following partial step in the cleaning operation by comparative measurements of the concentration of the at least one indicator in the mixture.

16 (currently amended). The method according to claim 13, wherein the cleaning medium ~~[[is]]~~ includes a detergent in a form selected from at least one of the group consisting of:

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a solid form;

a liquid form;

~~a gaseous form, and~~

a mixture of ~~at least two of~~ a solid form[[,]] and a liquid form, ~~and a gaseous form.~~

17 (previously presented). The method according to claim 13, which further comprises carrying out the measurements of at least one of the group consisting of:

the concentration of the at least one indicator in the mixture; and

a quantity of cleaning medium present in the mixture,

during a progress of a partial step in the cleaning operation.

18 (previously presented). The method according to claim 13, which further comprises:

after the at least one indicator has been added, measuring the concentration of the at least one indicator in the mixture;

applying the mixture including the cleaning medium to items;

after the cleaning medium has been applied to the items to be cleaned, performing at least one of the group consisting of:

a further measurement of the concentration of the at least one indicator in the mixture; and

a measurement of the quantity of the mixture present;

determining a quantity of the at least one indicator removed from the mixture from a comparison of the measurements; and

based upon the determined quantity of the at least one indicator removed from the mixture, setting parameters for one of the group consisting of:

a partial step already running in the cleaning operation; and

at least one following partial step in the cleaning operation.

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19 (previously presented). The method according to claim 18, which further comprises performing at least one of the group consisting of:

the further measurement of the concentration of the at least one indicator in the mixture; and

the measurement of the quantity of the mixture present, during a mixture emptying operation.

20 (previously presented). The method according to claim 13, wherein the parameters defined for the at least one partial step in the cleaning operation include at least one of the group consisting of:

a temperature of the cleaning medium;

a quantity of the cleaning medium;

at least one time of an addition of additives to the cleaning medium;

at least one quantity of the addition of additives to the cleaning medium;

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a duration of an application of the cleaning medium to items to be cleaned; and

an intensity of the application of the cleaning medium to the items to be cleaned.

21 (previously presented). The method according to claim 13, which further comprises carrying out the documentation step by documenting at least the parameter settings in a storage media belonging to a control device of the dishwasher for the cleaning operation.